

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 01991 032126Z

73

ACTION ARA-10

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INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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SUBJ: GOC STATEMENTS ON VIETNAM

1. SANTIAGO PRESS APRIL 3 CONTINUES EXTENSIVE WIRE SERVICE COVERAGE OF VIETNAMESE EVENTS, AND GOC HAS NOW ENTERED PICTURE.

2. PRESS APRIL 3 REPORTED STATEMENT PREVIOUS DAY BY PRESIDENT PINOCHET THAT CHILE WILL ACCUSE NORTH VIETNAM IN UN OF HAVING VIOLATED HUMAN RIGHTS IN ITS AGGRESSION AGAINST SOUTH VIETNAM. PINOCHET SAID HE HAD ASKED FONMIN TO TAKE ACTION IN ORDER FORMALLY TO PRESENT "CHILEAN PROTEST AND ACCUSATION TO UN." SAID HE WAS VERY MOVED BY WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING IN SOUTH VIETNAM, HAD READ CAREFULLY NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS OF DA NANG EVACUATION AND OF "CRUEL ACTIONS OF COMMUNIST FORCES" AGAINST CIVILIANS FLEEING TOWARD COAST.

3. FOLLOWING UP FOREGOING, FONMIN UNDER SECRETARY COL. VALDES APRIL 2 READ TO PRESS STATEMENT THAT "WILL BE SENT" TO UN. STATEMENT SAID CHILEAN GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE ARE HORRIFIED BY "INHUMANE METHODS" USED BY NORTH VIETNAM AND VIET CONG FORCES. FONMIN JOINED APPEAL OF POPE TO MAKE COMMON CAUSE WITH VICTIMS AND TO BRING BEFORE WORLD PUBLIC

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PAGE 02 SANTIA 01991 032126Z

OPINION REQUIREMENT THAT RULES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW BE RESPECTED.

UNDERSECY SAID NORTH VIETNAM AND VIET CONG, WITH THEIR AGGRESSION, HAD NOT ONLY VIOLATED PARIS AGREEMENT BY BREAKING CEASE-FIRE; THEY HAD ALSO VIOLATED IT BY COMPLETELY IGNORING RIGHT OF SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE TO SELF-DETERMINATION, RIGHT RECOGNIZED AS "SACRED AND INALIENABLE."

4. CRUELITIES WHICH CHARACTERIZE THIS AGRRESSION, UNDERSECY CONTINUED, ARE IN VIOLATION OF HUMANITARIAN RULES OF WAR OF THE HAGUE AND GENEVA. THESE RULES DENY TO BELLIGERENTS RIGHT TO CHOOSE WITHOUT RESTRICTION MEANS OF COMBATING ENEMY AND OBLIGE THEM TO RESPECT LIVES OF MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES WHO ARE CAPTURED OR WOUNDED; TO KEEP CIVILIANS OUT OF THE STRUGGLE, CARING FOR THEIR LIVES AND PROPERTY, AND TO ABSTAIN FROM USING THEM AS HOSTAGES IN ANY WAY, ABOVE ALL WHEN THEY ARE FLEEING; AND TO REFRAIN FROM DESTROYING CITIES AND VILLAGES WITHOUT STRATEGIC VALUE.

5. CRIMES BEING COMMITTED IN VIETNAM HAVE UP TO NOW NOT OCCASIONED REACTON OF UN, WHICH IS A PITY, VALDES SAID. THEY HAVE AROUSED REPUGNANCE AND REPUDIATION IN CIVILIZED COUNTRIES, WHICH MUST PREVENT REGRESSION TO BARBAROUS METHODS NOT COMPATIBLE WITH MORAL AND JURIDICAL PROGRESS OF OUR TIME. CONSCIOUS OF THIS OBLIGATION, CHILE "DENOUNCES THESE CRIMES BEFORE THE WORLD, CONDEMNNS THEM,A EXPRESSES ITS SOLIDARITY WITH VICTIMS, ESPECIALLY WITH HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF REFUGEES, AND IS CONFIDENT THAT INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION WILL FORCE AGGRESSORS TO RESPECT HUMANITARIAN RULES OF WAR AND WILL IN THAT WAY CONTRIBUTE TO ALLEVIATE SUFFERING WHICH ONCE AGAIN AFFLICTS HEROIC PEOPLE OF SOUTH VIETNAM.
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